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CONGRESSWOMAN STEPHANIE MURPHY
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FLORIDA, 7TH DISTRICT

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1710 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4035

ORLANDO OFFICE
225 E ROBINSON ST., SUITE 525
ORLANDO, FL 32801
(888) 205-5421

SANFORD OFFICE
110 W FIRST ST., SUITE 210
SANFORD, FL 32771
(888) 205-5421

November 19, 2019

Hon. Nita M. Lowey
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Richard C. Shelby
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-146A, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Lowey, Chairman Shelby, Ranking Member Granger, and Vice Chairman Leahy:

We write in our capacity as bipartisan members of the House of Representatives who value the use of modeling and simulation to advance defense and domestic goals. When the House of Representatives and the Senate meet to reconcile the differences between their versions of the Defense Appropriations Act, 2020, we respectfully ask that you provide (1) \$111,761,000 for the Synthetic Training Environment (STE) Refinement and Prototyping program element within the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army account, which is \$25 million below the President's budget request, and (2) \$20,749,000 for the Synthetic Training Environment program element within the Other Procurement, Army account, which is the same as the President's budget request. These were the funding levels provided in the House-passed bill (H.R. 2740). The Senate bill (S. 2474) provides \$57,121,000 and \$0 for these two program elements, respectively. The Army has appealed the Senate funding levels.

Adequately funding these two accounts will help ensure our nation's warfighters receive realistic training that prepares them for the evolving nature of combat. STE will use all available learning tools, artificial intelligence, and data analytics; will leverage validated cognitive research; and will combine virtual, constructive, and gaming training environments—all in an effort to provide our warfighters with the most life-like scenarios and rehearsals. Failing to appropriately fund these

accounts will delay training modernization, increase the Army's reliance on legacy platforms, and increase operational risk to both force readiness and soldier lethality.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Paul Cook
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress



Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress

cc: Hon. Peter J. Visclosky, Chairman, House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Defense

Hon. Ken Calvert, Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Defense

Hon. Richard J. Durbin, Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Defense